

**APPROVED 03/13/2008**

At 6:05 pm Chairman Cordes called the meeting to order. Present were Selectmen Gene Cordes and Peter Bolduc; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson; and Mike Hastings from BestWay Disposal.

Mr Hastings asked when the Board might take up the matter of the trash bids, and the Selectmen began to discuss it. Mr Hastings said he was present representing BestWay Disposal. Cordes said he was thinking that he would like to meet with the two low bidders next week to further review their proposals, and that the Board had been reviewing each; along with a comparative spreadsheet.

Hastings said that recycling is headed to single-stream and said it is picked up by a different style truck. He said there are two facilities in Massachusetts and one in Portland Maine that can process the single stream. He said the Portland facility is municipally owned, and the two in Massachusetts are owned by private companies, one by a paper company one by another recycler in Massachusetts.

Hastings said that Bestway had the contractual relationships with the companies who do this. Selectmen asked what assurances the Town has to know that everything is being recycled. Hastings indicated they will put it in writing and show them where it is going. He said they had taken other town officials to the facility in Maine for a tour to see how it is processed.

Cordes said the Town is sensitive to it because we encourage residents to go to the trouble of processing it for recycling and want to be sure that is how it is handled. Hastings said that Bestway has a brochure to explain the process. He added that the truck is identified as a recycling truck, and it is a learning experience as this single-streaming gets underway.

Hastings said that the market value of recycling has gone up in paper and metals; and that it is not currently costing anything to get rid of it, but they don't have to pay to dump it.

Hastings said that Bestway wants to get more and more out of the wastestream as well, and encourages recycling.

Cordes said that Pay As You Throw (PAYT) has been kicked around several times. Hastings said if the Town were to change to that method, it would not present any problems to Bestway for the collection. He added that it decreases trash and increases recycling and shifts the waste stream to more recyclables.

If we wanted someone from Bestway to come back and meet with the Board next week. Hastings said he thought that would be possible. Mr Hastings thanked the Board and left the meeting at 6:20 pm.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Selectmen reviewed the minutes for 28 February 2008. Motion was made by Bolduc and seconded by Cordes to approve them as written. The vote was unanimously approved 2-0.
2. Selectmen decided that they would all attend a regional dinner meeting on the NH Retirement System, so three spots will be reserved.
3. Selectmen discussed the draft wage study and how to handle completing this project review for the next budget season. No decisions were made. This will now wait until a new Selectman is elected and has an opportunity to review the plan and job description updates.

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At 6:30 pm Salvatore Angelone came into the Board's meeting to talk about an appointment to the Fremont Planning Board. He talked with the Board briefly about his interest and Bolduc indicated he had been attending recent meetings.

Carlson went upstairs to prepare an appointment form for a three year alternate term. Angelone continued to talk to the Selectmen.

With an appointment form in hand, Bolduc moved to appoint Salvatore Angelone to a three year term as an Alternate to the Planning Board, to expire in March 2011. Cordes seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Selectmen reviewed the payroll manifest \$20,071.80 and accounts payable manifest \$248,599.12 dated for 07 March 2008. Motion was made by Bolduc and seconded by Cordes to approve these manifests. The vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

2. Selectmen reviewed a compilation of all manual vendor check manifests for the period of January 1 through January 25, 2008 in the total amount of \$432,405.92. After some discussion, motion was made by Bolduc and seconded by Cordes to approve the consolidated manifest in the amount of \$432,405.92. The vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

3. Selectmen reviewed outgoing correspondence to Donna Randall re: tax matters. Some changes were made to the letter and it was prepared and signed.

4. Selectmen reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence.

At 7:00 pm Department Head Neal Janvrin joined the meeting.

Cordes told Janvrin that the Energy Committee has been meeting; and that the members of the Committee were each to meet with a department head at one of the town buildings. Cordes said his assignment is the Safety Complex and would like to meet with Fire and Police about the building and energy uses, etc. Janvrin and Cordes will try and get together next week.

There was discussion about the road postings for seasonal thaw and how to advertise this posting. The statutes were reviewed. Janvrin will check with NH DOT and Carlson will contact the NH Municipal Association for further, additional clarification.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

At 7:15 pm Cordes moved to enter non-public session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A 3 II (c) to discuss tax hardship matters. Janvrin left the meeting at this time.

Selectmen reviewed draft letters regarding tax hardship issues. There was also one additional incoming letter in this regard.

The Board also reviewed a personnel matter pursuant to NH RSA 91-A 3 II (c)

At 7:25 pm the Board moved to returned to public session on a motion from Cordes and second from Bolduc.

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At this time members of the Cable Committee Peter Bearse, Neal Janvrin, Warren Yee, and Tom McGall entered the meeting.

Selectmen reviewed other Cable correspondence. Neil Rowland came into the meeting at 7:29 pm. He set up a video recorder. Keith Stanton came into the meeting at 7:30 pm.

At 7:31 pm Cordes thanked the Cable Committee members for attending and said that the Board wanted to further discuss with the Committee the negotiation of the cable contract. Additional information gathering has been underway over the past weeks, and two extensions have been signed for the contract through March 31, 2008.

There has been discussion about the fiber optic line from Fremont to Exeter, the pricing being fixed and timing for this to occur. The Board of Selectmen felt that one of the original goals of the recontract was that the Fremont cable feed would be available to all Fremont residents, getting those on current feeds from Sandown and Raymond onto the Fremont feed. Additionally there is one street that has never been cabled and Selectmen wanted to get a price to have that done as well. This is Old Ridge Road at a cost of \$10,000. The mechanical and technology effort to get the Raymond and Sandown homes on the Fremont feed is \$47,700.

Cordes said that there was some money intended in franchise fees intended to come back to the Town to develop a community access channel for equipment of approximately \$9,000. It was also estimated by Comcast that we would get \$6,000 per year in franchise fees (returned) and it would take up into the second year to get a channel operational (using those revenues to fund it). Comcast said they would be willing to frontload the equipment into the franchise related costs of \$5,000.

Cordes said that the Board has not made any decision yet. Their goal is to see that all the services are available on a Fremont feed to all residents and that it is up and running as soon as possible.

Cordes said to add these up, the franchise related costs comes up to \$0.95 per subscriber per month; and the franchise fee recommended by the Cable Committee was \$0.40.

The Board said that this was the information in front of them now and wanted to talk to the Committee.

Janvrin said he had been vocal all along about having all parts of Fremont on the same feed so that all residents get the local channel, but has asked the question of what that would do to the cost of basic cable service. Carlson had posed this question to Jay Somers today and did not get a response back by the time of the meeting.

Rowland asked about the status of the public access channel, as it has had only one meeting running for the past few weeks. Cordes explained that we are planning to retain that capacity pending the equipment necessary, and it was stated that there are no meetings being played because there have been no tapes submitted recently for rebroadcast.

There was some discussion about how the playback service will be bridged. The Board is anticipating that Comcast will give us the present tape playback equipment and once the return line is constructed for live broadcast, that the Town will have to have a mechanism in place.

Keith Stanton brought forward a letter and presented it to the Board, from Chairperson Brande McLean. Cordes Cordes read this letter into the record:

Dear Selectmen:

I have read your letter to me dated 2/26/08. I was voted the Chairperson of the Fremont Cable Television Contract Renewal Committee at the first meeting. I can't attend the March 6 meeting.

1. I believe that we all agreed that Comcast (Continental Cablevision) should never have connected Fremont customers to the Raymond grid. Perhaps on a temporary basis for a quicker "build up", but not part of a 20 year plan. Comcast needs to connect the Raymond fed homes and the Sandown fed homes to Fremont's grid AT NO ADDED CHARGE TO FREMONT SUBSCRIBERS!
2. Old Ridge Road cable needs to be extended to the last person who wants their service at no added cost to Fremont subscribers! It was part of the 1988 contract. A mile of Andreski Drive does not cost more to install than a mile of Old Ridge Road. The \$3,000 per mile was the same for every mile of Fremont roads.
3. We originally agreed to keep any franchise fees to \$3 per YEAR per subscriber. Then, we amended that figure to a MAXIMUM \$9 PER year per subscriber. We held our "Public Hearings" based on those amounts. Your figures add up to \$16.20 per year. Also you do not take into account any increases (Which Comcast is poised to ask for right now.) in rates which would increase these figures even more. These FEES are a percentage, NOT a hard number.

GOOD LUCK! And, keep my cable franchise fees \$9 per year, or lower.

Letter retyped as submitted, and it was signed Brande McLean and dated March 5, 2008.

Cordes said that he understood this and everyone considered the monthly franchise fees. Cordes said that this is our one opportunity to make the changes that were needed to the contract for the next 10 year period.

Cordes said that he believes that the people in Fremont on the Raymond feed got cable when it came to Raymond, which was prior to the development in Fremont. The developer got onto the Raymond feed, getting those folks the good fortune of cable in advance of other Fremont residents.

The Board is looking at trying to create a resource for the Town, and if having community access to the channel is important to have, than it is an important choice for people to have. If we don't fix it now, we won't fix it for the 10 years of this contract.

Bearse said he would speak in support of McLean's letter. Bearse said he had supported the Board at the last meeting he attended in attempting to get the whole town on the same feed that is for Fremont residents. Bearse said this is a worthy goal but there is a significant cost to achieving that. He termed it a "tough tradeoff of significant cost" for a limited number of people. He said that it spread the cost among all of the subscribers. He questioned increasing the rate of \$0.75 that the Committee had set as a limit.

Bearse said that the Committee has been sensitive all through their work, to keep that cost down. He said his own opinion is to find some other way to get those things done in another way (without the cost). The Cable Committee's next meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday, so they have not yet met as a group to discuss these options.

Bearse said that he is in favor of the opinions expressed in the letter from Brande McLean; it is a good goal, but it is too costly for the number of people it serves.

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It was clarified that the franchise fee is to be based on basic cable only, not on any premium services, because basic cable is where the local channel sits.

Stanton questioned the \$0.02 franchise fee that is still on his bill from the old contract.

Cordes said that it was built into that original contract for the tape playback capacity equipment, and even though that equipment is gone, the original agreement was that it be in a monthly \$0.02 franchise fee.

McGall asked how firm the Board was on the numbers from Comcast (\$10,000 and \$47,700) for the road buildouts. Cordes and Bolduc said that the Board wanted to have the information for all residents to be able to be wired.

There was discussion about the cost per mile to run cable. McGall asked what makes it our obligation to run cable to Old Ridge Road, and this was also discussed. Bearse said it is not an obligation, but it is a worthy goal.

Selectmen said they were looking at the long-term goal here of getting the services to be available to all Fremont residents. Bolduc said that at this point in contract negotiations we really should try and get the cable out there.

Bearse said there was an option, Web 2.0. He said you can see what is available through You Tube. The reproductions of meetings can be uploaded this way or another vehicle, so that you would not necessarily have the connection to the cable network. He said this is the way of the future.

Rowland said he had been experimenting with You Tube and other services for several months now. He mentioned Video.google.com which is much less restrictive and allows you to upload videos of up to several hours in length. Anyone with broadband capability could view it via the internet, and it would get you around the cable access channel issue.

Cordes asked about the mechanics of getting that out via the internet. Rowland said that if you have a modern camera that will export in a computer format and some editing software, it can be done with some time. It eventually may also be able to be done live. It was agreed that technology is changing fast and it will continue to do so.

Warren Yee said that many new ideas are coming up here that had not been discussed in the context of Committee meetings. He said that Larry Morse had suggested that a good attorney review the contract. Yee said that we should concentrate the effort on this so that it is condensed and not a conglomerate of people.

He suggested having a review of the proposed contract and get tightened down. He said if we don't have any counter proposals, and we continue to get input every day of the week from different people that this is not going to happen.

It was suggested that we need to bargain hard for what Fremont wants in this contract. Carlson will contact Larry Morse about the name of the legal firm he had discussed during Committee meetings.

Bearse said that there are really two major issues to be decided, policy issues, 1. Whether to levy an additional fee on subscribers to wire the unwired streets and 2. How will the playback service be bridged.

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The tape playback is proposed to be handled in a side letter. Comcast has said that they will give us the equipment and construct the return line. This letter needs to include a fixed cost and time schedule for the work to be completed.

Yee said that he cannot see quibbling about going from \$0.02 cents a month to \$0.95 cents a month. He felt this was nothing.

Cordes said he understood the Committee really focused on the costs; and the Board wanted to review again this evening what the goals were of the committee and the renegotiated contract.

Janvrin said that he had an additional question about Fairpoint coming to Fremont and how that would potentially affect cable services in the future.

Stanton had posed that matter to the Board in an earlier proposal on how to fund cable options. Cordes said that the Board had talked to our Town Counsel about the questions about Verizon selling cable television services in Fremont. The Board had talked about it, and had sent a letter to the NH Public Utilities Commission. No response has been received from the NH PUC, and the Town's attorney advised to let the PUC handle it for now.

Cordes said that a copy of an invoice from someone who had the service in Fremont would be very helpful to take back to the PUC.

Stanton referred to a woman who lived on Beede Hill Road that had spoken up during the September 2007 public hearing indicating that she was purchasing it and "do you want to see my bill?" Carlson will attempt to contact her.

Rowland suggested we might want to encourage competition.

There was discussion about no company getting a better deal than Comcast, but that other carriers could also negotiate an agreement within Fremont.

Keith Stanton left the meeting at 8:26 pm.

Bearse asked a question about the warrant article having a dollar value in it, which was discussed. This will be explained again at the Town Meeting, in that it does not appropriate tax dollars, but having a specified value in the verbiage of the article is required by DRA.

Bearse said that the Cable Committee would be meeting on Wednesday March 12, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Selectmen said they would be around on Tuesday and would connect if that had anything further for the Committee's consideration.

Selectmen took a 10 minutes recess at 8:32 pm. The Board's meeting came back to session at 8:42 pm.

**NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED**

5. Selectmen reviewed an appointment form from the Town Clerk for Carolyn F Carr to serve as Inspector of Elections Pro Tem (Republican) for the upcoming Town and School District elections on March 11, 2008. Cordes moved to appoint Carolyn Carr as a Republican Inspector of Elections for the March 11, 2008 election. Bolduc seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 2-0. The form was signed and returned to the Town Clerk.

6. Selectmen reviewed a Performance Agreement with the Dunlap Highland Band for the Memorial Day parade. The Board will wait until after funding is approved at Town Meeting before entering into a contract with the Band.

7. Spring Bulky Day is set for May 17<sup>th</sup>. Jeanne is working on the arrangements and scheduling.

8. Selectmen signed a lien release for payment received on parcel 07-080.

Selectmen talked further about Neil Rowland's request (brought to the Carlson by Peter Bearse), which had been posed during the recess, about uploading the video/audio coverage of the 7:30 appointment (this evening with the Cable Committee) to You Tube and putting a note in the newsletter about how residents could locate that. The Board said that any such notice would have to meet the guidelines of the Newsletter submission.

The Board wants meetings set up next week with Waste Management and BestWay to further discuss their proposals, as the two low bidders for the trash and recycling contract. With regard to the Bestway proposal, the Board is looking to discuss any way they can lower their proposal including using a different fuel cost number for future years; and ask them about a proposal that would meet the minimum RFP guidelines. The Board asked to set aside not more than ½ an hour for each.

The Board also asked for Jay Somers to put together and submit for their review, a draft of the sidebar letter regarding fixing the price of construction of the fiber optic line and specify when it will be constructed by, including the equipment being gifted/donated to the town; and parameters of preserving the capacity of the tape rebroadcast until such time as the fiber optic line is in and continue to allow us to broadcast tapes until such time as we are able to do it live in-house.

Cordes had asked Somers what he could do to get the Old Ridge Road price down, and Somers will be asked what he found out about this.

#### **NEXT WEEK**

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday March 13, 2008 at 6:00 pm. Selectmen Bolduc and Cordes will open the polls at 8:00 am on Tuesday March 11, 2008. The Board will also reconvene between 5:00 and 6:00 pm that evening at the Complex as well.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Bolduc and seconded by Cordes to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm. The vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson  
Town Administrator